

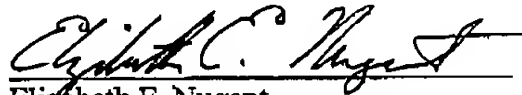
allows it to conform to the angle of the underlying bone surface when the rivet is used. Contrary to Examiner's assertion, this is clearly stated as being a desirable feature of the washer at page 13, lines 21-28 of the instant application ("[S]ince washer 7 floats relative to bone surface, head 11 forces washer 7 against tissue 40 so that washer 7 is substantially parallel to a surface of bone 39."), and illustrated in Figure 12.

The washer of Matuschek, on the other hand, is specifically disclosed to abut the skirt of the collar (col 2, lines 22-23). It thus does not "float" as recited in the pending claims. It is therefore submitted that the pending claims are not anticipated by Matuschek, since one element of the claimed invention is not found in Matuschek's rivet.

In light of the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present case is in condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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